

Minutes of Co-operative Energy Ltd Board Meeting, 7 April 1997, Spencer Street Railway Station Cafeteria.

Present: Graeme Charles, Roger Lamb, Vern Hughes, William McPherson and David Griffiths
Apology: Ian Pearce

Documents

The Secretary provided directors with copies of the following:

Craig, Duncan Power producers' green packages, The Australian Financial Review, 3 April 1997
Office of the Treasurer, News Release: State Government Unveils New Gas Industry Structure, 24 March 1997
Smith, Don Electric Cooperatives: Competitive and Efficient
Skulley, Mark Victoria's \$1.5bn power play, The Australian Financial Review, 2 April 1997, p 3
Sorohan, Mike "Touchstone Energy:" Birth of A Brand Electric Co-op Today, 21 March 1997, Volume 3 Number 11, pp 1-2
Trades Union Congress (UK) Cheaper Power, 19 February 1997
Washington Post predicts electric consumer cooperatives, NCBA Legislative Insights, Volume VIII Number 4, 21 March 1997

The Secretary also advised that copies of the following documents were available for directors at \$2 each payable to Co-operative Energy Ltd:

Farhar, Barbara C Energy and the Environment: The Public View REPP, Issue Brief, October 1996, No 3
Holt, Edward A Disclosure and Certification: Truth and Labeling for Electric Power REPP, Issue Brief, January 1997, No 5
Mintzer, Irving Miller, Alan and Serchuk, Adam The Environmental Imperative: A Driving Force in the Development and Deployment of Renewable Energy Technologies, REPP, Issue Brief, April 1996, No 1
Sharam, Andrea The Dismantling of the Electricity Urban-Rural Cross Subsidy, Energy Action Group 1997
Survey Report of Retail Competition Pilot Program Prepared for the NH Public Utilities Commission

Moreland Council

The Secretary tabled a revised version of the submission to the Moreland Council:
Moreland Council and Energy Co-operatives, 5 April 1997

The Secretary said that an earlier draft had been circulated with the package of documents mailed to members on 19 March 1997. He said no member had taken the opportunity to respond to the draft.

The Secretary requested endorsement.

1. Resolved that the submission Moreland Council and Energy Co-operatives be endorsed and forwarded to the Moreland Council. CARRIED

Ecologically Sustainable Development

The Secretary tabled a submission to the Australian Intergovernmental Committee on Ecologically Sustainable Development:
Greenhouse and Co-operatives, 5 April 1997

The Secretary requested endorsement.

2. Resolved that the submission Greenhouse and Co-operatives be endorsed and forwarded to the Australian Intergovernmental Committee on Ecologically Sustainable Development. CARRIED

EIOV

The Secretary said that a draft news statement had been included in the package of documents mailed to members on 19 March 1997:
EIOV Compromised by Confidentiality

The Secretary said that no member had taken the opportunity to respond to the draft.

The Secretary requested endorsement.

3. Resolved that the news release EIOV Compromised by Confidentiality be endorsed and forwarded to the media. CARRIED

Esperance

Graeme Charles and Roger Lamb reported on discussions with Esperance and that a proposal had been made for a co-operative workshop and that funds were being sought by the organisers. It was also noted that the Secretary of the Co-operative Federation of WA, Mr John Booth, was being kept informed of progress. It was anticipated that the workshop could generate a profit of up to \$1000 for Co-operative Energy Ltd. It was also noted that the NRECA had been asked whether it could contribute a paper to the workshop.

ISP

The Secretary reported that he had established accounts with two ISPs - Pegasus Networks and Majestic Internet Services. He provided directors with his two email addresses:

davidg@peg.apc.org
davidg@majestic.net.au

The Secretary said that for Majestic Internet Services he had already paid \$300 and could be paying an additional \$100 within two weeks.

Computer

The Secretary reported that he had recently spent \$995 upgrading his computer and that he was not expecting any reimbursement. He noted that the computer was primarily used to serve the needs of Co-operative Energy Ltd and to a lesser extent Southern Energy Co-operative Ltd and the Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd.

Finances

The Secretary tabled two documents:

Piccol Financial Statement, 31 March 1997
Income received as at 31 March 1997

Annual Levy

The Secretary reminded directors that at the previous Board meeting on 3 January 1997 a decision had been made to introduce a one off annual levy of \$150. He said that five directors had now made arrangements for paying the annual levy:

Graeme Charles
John Dick
David Griffiths
Roger Lamb
William McPherson

Subscriptions

The Secretary reported that two directors had still not paid their annual \$50 subscription - Tony Gill and Bill McPherson.

The Secretary reminded the Board that Rule 13 provided that the annual subscription was to be paid within three months after the close of the financial year of the co-operative - the end of December. He said that under Rule 9: A person shall cease to be a member of the Co-operative in accordance with section 58(9) of the Act, and in the following circumstance: Where the member does not pay the annual subscription after three (3) months of the close of the financial year.

Accordingly, the Secretary said that both Bill McPherson and Tony Gill should be expelled in accordance with Rule 10. This required written notice of a proposed resolution for their expulsion and that this be forwarded to the two members not less than seven days before the meeting. The Secretary recommended the following resolution:

That Mr Tony Gill and Mr William McPherson be expelled because they have both failed to discharge their obligations under Rule 13 to pay the annual subscription within three months after the close of the financial year of the co-operative and under Rule 9 failure to pay the subscription within the required time period requires that such persons cease to be members.

Mr McPherson said that his \$150 cheque for the annual levy, provided to the Secretary before the Board meeting, could be used to pay for the annual subscriptions for himself, Peter McPherson and Tony Gill.

The motion lapsed

Budget

The Treasurer tabled a budget for the period February - September 1997 which provided for receipts of \$1900 and payments of \$1850.

Electric Industry Co-operative TaskForce

The Secretary reported that he was preparing a progress report to be mailed to members of the Electric Industry Co-operative TaskForce.

The Secretary noted that at this point of time the Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd was not seeking to co-ordinate the purchasing of electricity for other co-operatives.

4. Resolved that Co-operative Energy Ltd adopt a co-ordinating role for purchasing electricity for co-operatives and other interested parties. CARRIED

It was noted that the report on the Membership Recruitment Strategy had proposed that Co-operative Energy Ltd should begin actively recruiting a co-operative membership. It was noted that the report was prepared subsequent to a Recruitment Meeting attended by Graeme Charles, David Griffiths, Gavan Sheehan and William McPherson. It was also noted that the Recruitment Meeting had recommended that a Members Kit be prepared and that Gavan Sheehan had offered to assist in its preparation.

Gas Deregulation

Vern Hughes asked the Board whether it had considered the impact of the proposed privatisation of the gas industry.

It was noted that gas purchasing was an issue for Co-operative Energy Ltd and that the Chairman and Secretary would discuss the matter and invite the contribution of Vern Hughes.


The Next 12 Months

Vern Hughes asked where Co-operative Energy Ltd saw itself over the next twelve months and he indicated his willingness to contribute some ideas on this.

It was agreed that the Chairman and Secretary would prepare briefing notes for distribution prior to the next Board meeting together with any contribution by Vern Hughes.

It was agreed that the main focus of the next Board meeting would be this issue.

Next Meeting: 12.00 midday, Monday 5 May 1997, Spencer Street Railway Station Cafeteria.

 5/6/97